Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp,
Barracks (Building No. 11)
County Road 39
Blackduck Vicinity
Beltrami County
Minnesota

HABS No. MN-147-J

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

RABIDEAU CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS CAMP,
BARRACKS HABS No. MN-147-J
(BUILDING NO. 11)

Location: One-half mile west of Beltrami County Highway 39, six miles south of Blackduck, Beltrami County, Minnesota.

Significance: The Barracks was constructed in 1935 as part of the Rabideau Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, which operated on the Chippewa National Forest until 1941. The camp was later used by the University of Illinois as a summer field school from 1946 to 1972.

Description: The Barracks is a one-story, rectangular-plan frame building with overall dimensions of 20' x 75'. The building is covered with shiplap siding painted dark green and is capped with a low-pitch, trussed, gable roof covered with green rolled asphalt. The building is supported by a log-post foundation. Eight nine-lite casement sash are spaced along both the north and south facades. The east and west facades feature a central entrance door flanked by nine-lite sash and one six-lite sash in the gable end. The trim around all doors and window openings, as well as the corner boards, consists of plain wood planks painted green. Four metal chimneys project from the roof, two from each of the north and south slopes.

The interior of the Barracks consists of one large room with a horizontal wood wainscot to the sill level and fiber board above. The building's truss system is completely exposed. A wood-burning barrel stove is located in the center. Two shelves have been installed along the side walls. Wash room facilities are located at the east end of the building, with four sinks and two toilets in a small room to the north and showers in the room to the south.

History: The Barracks originally housed CCC enrollees and was later utilized by the University of Illinois as a student dormitory. The university installed the wash room facilities in 1946, after apparently deciding not to construct a central wash house. This building is identical to Building No. 9 (HABS No. MN-147-H), located immediately to the north. although it lacks an addition for a water heater, which was probably removed. The Barracks was restored by the Forest Service in 1986.

Sources: The oldest known site plan of camp while still occupied by the CCC, entitled "Rabideau Camp F-50" (ca. 1936); an undated site plan by the University of Illinois included in a "Memorandum Concerning the Summer Surveying Camp," dated December 1, 1945; a "Memorandum to Students" by the University of Illinois, dated June 15, 1949, all located at the University Archives, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, in the Civil Engineering Subject File Record Series 11/5/1. A letter to the Forest Service, dated August 5, 1985, from Milton O. Schmidt, Professor of Civil Engineering, Emeritus, University of Illinois, in a file on the Rabideau Camp at the Forest Supervisor's Office in Cass Lake, Minnesota. See also HABS No. MN-147.

Historian: Rolf T. Anderson, 1994